

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph titled BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS with the following amended paragraph.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

The foregoing and other objects, features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following more particular description of embodiments of the invention, as illustrated in the accompanying drawings and figures in which like reference characters refer to the same parts throughout the different views. The drawings are not necessarily to scale, with emphasis instead being placed upon illustrating the embodiments, principles and concepts of the invention.

Figure 1 illustrates an example networked computing system environment including data communications devices that operate packet pool controllers configured according to embodiments of the invention.

Figure 2 is a flow chart of processing steps performed by a data communications device equipped with a packet pool controller to form pooled packets from two or more packets of stream data according to one embodiment of the invention.

Figure 3 is a flow chart of processing steps performed by a data communications device equipped with a packet pool controller to extract one or more packets of stream data from a pooled packet according to one embodiment of the invention.

Figure 4 illustrates an example architecture and data flow of operation of a packet pool controller process manager within a data communications device configured according to one example embodiment of the invention.

Figure 5 is a flow chart showing the details of operation of a data communications device operating a packet pool controller to create pooled packets according to one example embodiment of the invention.

Figure 6 is a flow chart showing the details of operation of a data communications device operating a packet pool controller to extract one or more packets of stream data from a pooled packet according to one example embodiment of the invention.

Figure 7 is a flow chart of processing steps performed by a packet pool controller process to receive a pooled packet and extract packets of stream data from the pooled packet if necessary.